#skills2success
DOG AGILITY TRAINING

CHECKING IT TWICE

FREE FRIDAY TRAINING CHALLENGE

ONE JUMP AT A TIME

KEY SKILL

How many different turns does your dog really understand?

Modern agility courses ask our dogs to produce lots of different shapes over a jump. Sometimes we want to maintain speed through a very soft turn. Sometimes we need a more pronounced change of direction. And sometimes we need a tight, collected wrap.

Checking It Twice is designed to get you thinking about how you communicate those differences to your dog.

THREE JUMPS. THREE QUESTIONS.

As you run the exercise, pay particular attention to jumps 5, 10 and 15. Each asks for a different degree of turn.

- **5** A loose 180 degree right turn
- **10** A very soft right turn, extension
- **15** A tight right wrap

How does your dog know which one you want?
Do you use the same turning cue and allow your handling to create the difference? Do you separate some or all of these behaviours with different verbal cues? And where, for you, does one behaviour become another?

There isn't a right answer.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

In **One Jump At A Time**, I separate a Go Forward, a Loose Turn and a Tight Wrap as different jumping behaviours.

But agility isn't made up of three perfectly defined shapes. Between going straight and wrapping tightly around a wing, there are countless degrees of turn.

Where do you draw the line?

YOUR CHALLENGE

Run the exercise and *check it twice.*

1. Think about the shape you want at jumps 5, 10 and 15.
2. Look at what your dog actually produces.
3. Did your cues communicate the difference you had in mind?

